DSD 10 - Technology for Emergency Preparedness
June 16, 2026

- For Emergency Situations, Scouts USA know what is most important: Be Prepared®
  - Now is the best time to get ready
- Most current smartphones have Emergency SOS capability
  - Sends notification to emergency responders
    - Usually includes location information
  - Alerts designated individuals (family members) of the emergency
    - May also include a message, video, and/or location
- Android:
  - Quickly press the Power button 5 times (or more) in a row
    - A five second countdown begins
    - To cancel Emergency SOS, swipe Cancel to the right
  - Once the countdown ends, emergency actions happen according to your settings

Settings → Safety & emergency → Emergency SOS
Turn on "Use Emergency SOS"
Option: Turn on Play alarm sound (good idea to do)

Options to select:
- Call emergency services: Dial local emergency number – SET UP TONIGHT!
- Share info with emergency contacts – SET UP TONIGHT!
- Record emergency video
- Auto share location (which you can turn off afterwards)

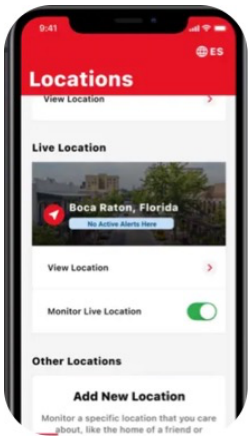
- iPhone
  - Hold both the side button and one of the volume buttons for a five second countdown
    - You can also swipe right on the Emergency SOS switch to activate the call immediately
  - Or you call just tell Siri to "Call Emergency"
  - Optionally, you can configure in Settings to do the five-button press

Settings → Emergency SOS
Option: Turn on countdown sound (good idea)

In Health App, set up Emergency Contacts **– SET UP TONIGHT**!
- Your contacts will be notified that you triggered an emergency call
- They will also be informed of your location (helps with ambulance/hospital information)

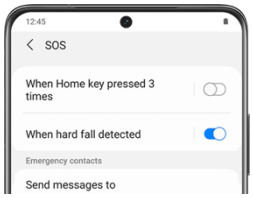
- Apple Watch:
  - Press and hold the side button until Emergency Call screen comes up, then either keep holding it, or move the slider to far right
- Pixel Watch
  - Press the crown five times
  - Touch and hold the screen for five seconds

- When the lights go out, don't let your tech go out too…
    - Uninterruptable power supplies kick in with battery backup as soon as the power goes off
        - Let's you properly shut down a computer
        - You can use the battery to charge mobile devices
    - Portable power banks
        - Like external batteries for your smart phones
- Red Cross apps for emergencies
    - First Aid (guidance for injury remediation)
    - Emergency (alerts you of natural threats)
        - Can customize 40 different weather alerts with notification
        - Step-by-step guides to help prepare
        - Can easily find open Red Cross shelters with an interactive map
        - Best feature: Can monitor locations of people you care about, and get notification of alerts that impact them
    - Pet First Aid (guidance for injury remediation)
    - Hero Care (resource for returning veterans and their families)



- Ensuring that your hands are free can be a big help in dealing with an emergency
    - Bluetooth earpiece allows you to speak discretely with emergency responders
    - Head lamp lets you see in the dark and keep your hands free

- Smart watches can detect accidents (some smart phones can too)
    - Leading smart watch manufacturers incorporate fall detection features, like:
        - Apple Watch Series 4 and later
        - Samsung Galaxy Watch 3 and later
        - Fitbit Sense
        - Google Pixel Watch
        - Garmin Forerunner 45S or Venu 2 and later



- Some smart phones can detect crashes
- Some smart phones now include emergency satellite connectivity
    - iPhone 14 and later
    - Google Pixel 9 and later

    - Samsung Galaxy S24 (and later) on Verizon and T-mobile
- Create an emergency tech kit for yourself containing
    - Battery power packs
    - Wall-plug USB chargers and assorted cables
    - Headlamp
    - Emergency crank radio
    - Waterproof bags
    - Car charger (dual port)

- Emergency Preparedness Resources
    - FEMA's Ready.gov
        - https://www.ready.gov
    - How to Prepare For Emergencies | Be Red Cross Ready
        - https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html
    - City of Alexandria's Pet Emergency Preparedness Plan
        - https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/homepage=quicklinks/petemergencypreparednessplanbrochure.pdf
    - City of Alexandria: Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved
        - https://www.alexandriava.gov/emergency-preparedness/be-informed-be-prepared-be-involved
    - Ready NOVA
        - https://en.readynova.org
    - Virginia Department of Emergency Management
        - https://www.vaemergency.gov